



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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JUNCUS COVILLEI* VAR *COVILLEI **COVILLE'S RUSH**

Coville's Rush is a strongly rhizomatous, grass-like perennial with slightly flattened stems that are 5-20 cm tall. Leaves are clustered at the base with 2-4 on the stem. Leaf sheaths have auricles on either side where the blade joins the stem. Usually 7 flowers are borne in 1-5 clusters at the top of the stem subtended by a leaf-like bract that is slightly longer than the inflorescence. Each flower is subtended by a single scale-like bract and has 6 dark brown tepals that are 3-4 mm long. The outer tepals are pointed at the tip, while the inner are rounded, and they are shorter than the capsule. There are 6 stamens, with the anthers about as long as the filaments. The narrowly egg-shaped capsule is 4-5 mm long and indented on top. Each seed is ca. 0.3 mm long and egg-shaped with a minute point at each end. Mature fruit in August-September.

The combination of flowers subtended by a single bract, flattened leaves, and 7-flowered heads separate *JUNCUS COVILLEI* from most other rhizomatous rushes. The tepals of *J. COVILLEI* VAR *OBTUSATUS* are pale brown, and the inner ones have pointed tips; and the capsule is 1mm longer than the tepals. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.